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NOVEMBER, 1926

It Can't Be Done

Governor Smith says he favors the working out of a plan whereby a state can be dry while neighboring states are wet.

Why wasn't Mr. Smith more specific as to how this plan could be worked out? How would the liquor traffic be confined within the borders of wet states? Mr. Smith does not say. He couldn't. It was tried out for over twenty-five years, but the liquor interests, for whom Smith has always voted, defeated it at every turn because they could make oodles of money from sales of booze in dry territory.

Moreover, the people of the United States who are interested in law enforcement will receive with some misgivings any proposal on this question coming from a man who, as Speaker of the New York Legislature, engineered the defeat of the Knight Bill, against knowingly delivering liquor in dry territory except to bona fide consignees.

Like Banco's ghost, Governor Smith's dripping-wet record will not down. It continues to rise up to contradict, ridicule, and haunt him every time he makes an utterance on the liquor question.

"Churches in Politics"

Pulpit Comment by Dr. M. P. Boynton before his regular sermon at the Woodlawn Baptist Church, Chicago, October 1, 1928

It is touching to witness the deep concern certain politicians have for the purity of the Church and the successful functioning of the ministers. Some politicians have suddenly come to the conviction that the ministers and the churches need wise counsel lest religion be utterly wrecked by preachers who are taking an interest in and telling their people about politics. Why is the country so loudly warned against the evils of politics in the churches? Let me tell you.

A few years back the politicians had things much their own way. The saloon was political headquarters for many of them. In the saloons they hatched their schemes and joyfully laid their plans. Here they rallied their forces and picked their candidates.

Conditions got bad. The cities were mostly under the control of the saloons. Many liquor sellers were in office. We had, what certain provinces in Canada have now, liquor control of the government. Drunk-

ards were made by the thousands. Homes were wrecked on every hand. This became a moral and social issue. The ministers began to talk about these things. The churches first cleansed themselves. Liquor dealers were told to quit the saloon business or get out of the churches. The preachers asked for laws that would restrict somewhat the evils of the saloon. They were laughed at for their pains.

Then a Congregational minister, by the name of Howard H. Russell, came along and told the churches how to combine against the liquor business. Since then the ministers have led the churches in a successful fight, with the result that the saloons are gone.

This overthrow of 177,000 saloons caused a mighty shift of business. Some three billions of dollars a year were turned into other channels of expenditure. You can not outlaw a market that paid over two hundred and fifty millions a month without at the same time upsetting a good many lines of business allied to that trade. One of the most profitable associations was with the city halls. The saloon politician was a flashy figure in those days. Easy money flowed into his pocket. That is all changed now. The politicians blame the preachers for this change. So, the wet press and ex-saloonists are out to convince the people that preachers should return to the pure gospel, whatever that is, and let politics alone.

Let me tell the politicians how they can keep the preachers out of politics. When the politicians get honest and efficient and confine themselves to the arts of government in a thoroughly business-like fashion; when the politicians give this country clean administration and good law enforcement, the preachers will stay out of politics. But not till then.

It was the preachers, and the free churches they served, that brought about the first amendment to our Federal Constitution. Ten amendments were made at the same time, December 15, 1791, one hundred and thirty-seven years ago. This first amendment provided three big things: Separation of Church and State; freedom of speech and of the press; and the right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.

Don't forget it was the free churches that brought all this about. During these more than one hundred and thirty years the churches have continued their interest in the Constitution and all the amendments thereto, especially the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Amendments.

Every moral issue will find utterance in the pulpits of the free churches in America. Those who champion the moral questions will have pulpit support and those who oppose the moral issues will have outspoken opposition from the pulpits.

No slanders of political partisans or threats of financial boycott will silence the pulpits. From the first the world, the flesh and the devil have tried to silence the prophets of God.

Political loud-speakers from New York, Maryland, and New Jersey are barking at the heels of so-called political preachers. The effort to scare off the preachers will fail. Opposition to truth but makes the truth more clear and wins for it many more champions. "Verily, He maketh the wrath of men to praise Him." As Henry Ford said, "The wets are making sure the continued progress and final victory of prohibition in America."

Can men mock God? Are His prophets driven away? No, no! You may kill the prophet, but he speaks on. Not eternal snow but a bleeding cross crowns the highest spot on earth.

Michigan's "Habitual Criminal Act"

On September 29 in Lansing, Michigan, Judge Carr in circuit court sentenced a 21-year-old man to life imprisonment upon being convicted of stealing an automobile, which constituted his fourth felony.

Now what will the wet press say about this case? Everyone knows what they would say had he been convicted and sentenced for committing a fourth felony had that felony been a violation of the prohibition law.

There have been at least two habitual criminals sent to prison for life in Michigan whose fourth felony was violation of the prohibition law.

Perhaps no lifer ever had so many barrels of tears shed in his behalf as did the criminal who was the first to receive a life sentence upon his conviction of violating the prohibition law which constituted his fourth felony.

The wet press featured the story under the head, "Sent to prison for life for possessing a quart of liquor." There was a theme for wet editors to weep over and they wept!

Now let them write editorials on the fate of this youth who was sent to prison for life "for stealing an automobile." But let them be careful not to explain that it is the fourth conviction on a charge of felony, which in the state of Michigan makes the offender a habitual criminal and carries the penalty of life imprisonment.

Wets say prohibition cannot be enforced, but when enforcement officers round up dry law violators and punish them, what a howl goes up from these same wets.

Philadelphia Police Scandal

The whole nation is watching with keen interest the developments in the Philadelphia police scandal involving more than a score of police officers of that city in alleged conspiracy cases connected with the bootleg industry. Many indictments have been returned against certain police officials accused of accepting huge sums of protection money from bootleggers and rum runners.

An Associated Press dispatch of October 9 says that Herbert W. Layre, a district detective of Philadelphia, was convicted by a jury in Common Pleas Court of extortion and bribery in accepting money from saloon keepers for protection. He is the first of the policemen arrested as the result of the special Grand Jury investigation of bootleggers and police corruption to be found guilty by a jury. He had been a member of the police force for 20 years. Among those who heard the verdict were former police captain J. Noell, under whose command Layre had served, and John W. Sells, another district detective, both of whom had pleaded guilty on the same charge. John Englemann identified Sells as the man who had regularly called at his saloon for the money which he said was contributed by twenty saloon keepers at the rate of \$25.00 each a week.

Philadelphia is to be congratulated upon the good start it has made in breaking up this system of graft carried on by this unholy combination of criminal police officers and criminal bootleggers. Let the good work continue and let these officers who are sworn to uphold the law but who have betrayed their trust, suffer equally with the criminal whom they have been protecting.

No doubt the wet press and wet leaders generally will blame prohibition for this police scandal, but the prohibition policy has been made the victim and is in no sense a party to the crime. The wonder is that working under such a handicap the law was as well enforced as it is in Philadelphia. Evidently it has not had a chance. It is an old trick of the wets to violate the law, encourage its violation and then set up the cry that it cannot be enforced.

The League is Complimented

Senator Edwards, of New Jersey, contributes an article to the November number of *Plain Talk*. Edwards, as the country knows, is the wettest member of the United States Senate. He himself says he is "as wet as the Atlantic Ocean."

His magazine article is devoted to the Anti-Saloon League, which he charges with corruption, bribery, and fraud, but is content with making the charges and gives no proof. Edwards' wrath towards the League has reached the boiling point because the League is opposing the election of Al Smith. Edwards closes his tirade against the League with this paragraph:

How much longer are we going to stand for it? Another four years? Another eight years? Forever? The answer lies with the people of the United States of America. One thing I can answer. That is, that anyone who supports the Anti-Saloon League, either with money or with spiritual well-wishes, is either a bigot or a d— fool.

The League thanks Senator Edwards. Condemnation from such a source is the highest kind of a compliment.

A SERIOUS CRISIS

Shall "Uncle Sam" become the world's greatest saloon-keeper by re-engaging in the beverage liquor traffic? Does America want the President of the United States to become the chief bartender of the nation, doff his striped suit, don a bartender's apron and become the greatest drunkard and criminal maker in the world?

The Smith program means just that, nothing less. Let every citizen face the facts. No good can come from deceiving ourselves, or burying our head in the sand. Governor Smith threatens with "fundamental changes" in prohibition, meaning nothing else than the return of brewery, distillery, saloons in some form, and the liquor to be dispensed by the government. And preachers may be forced to tend bar, bankers wash cuspidors, "highups" mop low down saloon floors, children carry the full beer pail in one hand and the empty dinner pail in the other.

We have not failed to "cry aloud and spare not" regarding the danger that threatens. If the wets do not "put it across" it is simply because they could not. If all dries will go to the polls early to vote and take their dry voter friends with them, and see that they all vote for HOOVER ELECTORS, no matter how they vote on the balance of their ticket, this calamity of the return of liquor can be averted.

ISSUE LIQUOR, NOT RELIGION

The charge that the Anti-Saloon League is opposing Governor Smith on account of his religion is absolutely false. Never in its thirty-five years of fighting against the liquor traffic has the Anti-Saloon League opposed any candidate because he was a Catholic. The League has repeatedly supported dry Catholics when their opponents were wet Protestants.

Recent declarations by Smith's supporters that the dries are fighting him because of his religion are a part of the campaign to distract attention from Smith's wetness. They are trying to hide their indefensible fight for booze under the respectable cloak of an appeal for religious liberty. The religious issue has been and is being raised by Smith's friends and not by the dries. They hope to win the vote of dry Catholics in spite of Smith's wetness and of dry Protestants on the ground of religious liberty.